

IN THE CLAIMS

1-59. (canceled)

60. (currently amended) In an immunoassay to detect the presence of antibodies to a human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) in a human sample comprising contacting said sample with an envelope (*env*) antigen comprising an amino acid sequence from the *env* domain of said HIV and determining whether antibodies are bound to said *env* antigen, the improvement comprising employing as said *env* antigen a synthetic polypeptide comprising an antigenic amino acid sequence from the *env* domain of HIV as shown in Figure 4.

61. (currently amended) A method of detecting antibodies to a human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) in a human sample, comprising:

a) providing a solid support having bound thereto a synthetic polypeptide comprising an envelope *env* antigen comprising an ~~antigenic immunogenic~~ amino acid sequence of the *env* domain of HIV as shown in Figure 4, wherein said *env* antigen is a synthetic polypeptide;

b) contacting said solid support with said human sample to provide a sample-contacted support;

c) washing said sample-contacted support to provide a washed support; and

d) determining whether human antibodies are bound to said washed support.

62. (previously presented) The method of claim 60 wherein said human sample comprises serum.

63. (previously presented) The method of claim 61 wherein said human sample comprises serum.

64. (previously presented) The method of claim 60 wherein step (d) comprises contacting said washed support with labeled antibodies to human Ig and the specific binding of said labeled antibodies to said washed support is measured.

65. (previously presented) The method of claim 61 wherein step (d) comprises contacting said washed support with labeled antibodies to human Ig and the specific binding of said labeled antibodies to said washed support is measured.

66. (currently amended) An article of manufacture adapted for use in an immunoassay for antibodies to a human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) comprising a solid support having bound thereto to synthetic polypeptide comprising at least a portion of an envelope (*env*) antigen comprising an antigenic immunogenic amino acid sequence of the *env* domain of said HIV, wherein said *env* antigen is a synthetic polypeptide comprising an antigenic amino acid sequence from the *env* domain of HIV as shown in Figure 4.

67. (canceled)

68. (currently amended) The immunoassay of claim 60 ~~or 61~~ wherein said *env* antigen contains at least 15 amino acid residues.

69-70. (canceled)

71. (currently amended) The method of claim 61 wherein said *env* antigen contains at least 15 amino acid residues.

72-73. (canceled)

74. (currently amended) The article of manufacture of claim 66 wherein said *env* antigen contains at least 15 amino acid residues.

75-76. (canceled)